

What is claimed is:

1. A suspension damping system for use with a vehicle having a chassis, said damping system comprising:

a spring interconnecting an unsprung portion and said vehicle chassis, said spring having a fluid therein;

a control system for conveying said fluid to said spring at a specified pressure, said specified pressure being determined by a distance between said unsprung portion and said vehicle chassis;

means for determining said distance;

a shock absorber interconnecting said unsprung portion and said vehicle chassis; and

a valve assembly in communication with said shock absorber, said control system conveying said fluid to said valve assembly at said specified pressure to control damping characteristics of said shock absorber.

2. The suspension damping system according to Claim 1, wherein said shock absorber defines a working chamber and a reserve chamber, said valve assembly being operable to control fluid flow between said chambers.

3. The suspension damping system according to Claim 2, wherein said valve assembly defines a fluid passage between said working chamber and said reserve chamber.

4. The suspension damping system according to Claim 3, wherein said valve assembly comprises a valve having an open position and a closed position, fluid flow being allowed through said fluid passage when said valve is in said open position, fluid flow being prohibited through said fluid passage when said valve is in said closed position.

5. The suspension damping system according to Claim 4, wherein said valve is moved between said open and closed positions by said fluid at said specified pressure.

6. The suspension damping system according to Claim 5, wherein said valve assembly is integral with said shock absorber.

7. The suspension damping system according to Claim 4, wherein said fluid at said specified pressure urges said valve into said closed position.

8. The suspension damping system according to Claim 1, wherein fluid pressure of working fluid within said working chamber urges said valve into said open position.

9. The suspension damping system according to Claim 1, wherein said valve assembly is integral with said shock absorber.

10. The suspension damping system according to Claim 1, wherein said shock absorber defines a working chamber and a reserve chamber, said valve assembly being movable between an open position where said working chamber communicates with said reserve chamber through said valve assembly, and a closed position where communication between said working chamber and said reserve chamber through said valve assembly is prohibited.

11. The suspension damping system according to Claim 10, wherein said valve assembly is moved between said open and closed positions by said fluid at said specified pressure.

12. The suspension damping system according to Claim 11, wherein said valve assembly is integral with said shock absorber.

13. The suspension damping system according to Claim 10, wherein said fluid at said specified pressure urges said valve assembly into said closed position.

14. The suspension damping system according to Claim 13, wherein fluid pressure of working fluid within said working chamber urges said valve assembly into said open position.

15. The suspension damping system according to Claim 1, wherein said shock absorber defines a working chamber and a reserve chamber, said valve assembly comprising:

- a housing defining a fluid pressure chamber in communication with said fluid at said specified pressure;

- a first passage in communication with said working chamber;

- a second passage in communication with said reserve chamber;

- a valve disposed between said first and second passages; and

- a control member disposed between said fluid pressure chamber and said valve, said control member responsive to said fluid at said specified pressure to urge said valve into a closed position where fluid flow between said first and second passages is prohibited.

16. The suspension damping system according to Claim 15, wherein fluid pressure of working fluid within said working chamber urges said valve into an open position where fluid flow between said first and second passages is permitted.